

Medicaid reform proposal closely aligns with the values of the social work profession. Throughout its history, our profession has been committed to addressing the underlying causes of poor health outcomes, and we appreciate the proposal's explicit recognition of the growing health disparities in our society and the impact of the social determinants of health on rates of illness.

Social workers have been strong supporters of health delivery system approaches that address the holistic needs of patients and families, including home and community-based services, the patient-centered medical home, and the integrated care model.

Social workers serve the health care system in many capacities, including care coordination for individuals with chronic illness, behavioral health, and substance use disorder treatment. The Affordable Care Act explicitly recognizes the role of social workers as both mental health professionals and care team members within the medical home.

I am most interested in more mental health services being available at the community level. I work at a childrens psychiatric hospital, and, at least once a month, we have a kid, 7 years old, 16 years old, admitted awaiting a psychiatric appointment through their local SASS agency.

Thank you for your time;
Sincerely,
Tracy A. Lanier, LCSW